

NCNA HEADS AND TALES

The Official Publication of the
Northern California Numismatic Association

Mission Statement
To Promote and To Serve Northern California Numismatics

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Editor
Michael S. Turrini

Contacts
Post Office Box 4104, Vallejo, California, 94590-0410
EMPERORI@juno.com or Turrini@money.org
www.solanocoinclub.org

"Try Not To Become A Man of Success, But Rather, Try To Become A Man of Value."----*Albert Einstein*

2000—2010 NCNA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Harry W. Davis-----	President
<i>Sede Vacate</i> -----	First Vice-President
Vincent O. Lacaiere-----	Second Vice-President
Fred G. van den Haak-----	Secretary
Michael S. Turrini-----	Treasurer

DEADLINE FOR NINETY-EIGHTH ISSUE-----April 1st

President's Message December, 2009

The end of another year and hope you all had a Merry Christmas. And wishing you all a great 2010. I can not believe how fast the year has gone by and I am looking forward to 2010. I've been trying to keep in touch with what's going on with all the events which has been a challenge and I haven't been attending as many club meetings or functions as I would like. But I still enjoy the ones I have been able to attend and the best part are the programs and all your Show-N-Tells.

In the month of September I was able to attend the Merced Coin Show put on by the Gateway Coin Club where I got lucky and won one of their door prizes and the show was well worth the trip. September also found me keeping busy with the NOR-CAL Show as Bourse Chairman which was hosted by the Vallejo Numismatic Society and it was the first time held in Vallejo at the Elk's Lodge #559. It was the first two day affair for me and all the club members who came out to support their club and I thank each and everyone who helped out. The show turned out well for both the dealers and collectors, there were new faces and some were familiar faces.

October was another busy month starting with the Diablo Numismatic Society's Annual Concord Coin Show held at the Holiday Inn on the 10th and 11th. Then Delta Coin Club had their Annual Coin Show at the Eagles' Hall in Stockton on the 17th and 18th. Then on September 24th, I moderated the CSNA Educational Symposium at the Vallejo Naval Museum, as President of the Vallejo Numismatic Society who hosted the event. There were four speakers that did a great job and the event was well attended. I was given the honor and pleasure of attending the wedding of the daughter of a fellow numismatist and good friend on the 31st

In the month of November I had the honor of reading the certificate sent to me as the President of the Vallejo Numismatic Society from the President of ANA, Clifford Mishler on the celebration of the Society's 55th Anniversary Dinner held on the 14th. Then the next day found me at the Peninsula Coin Club Annual Coin Show held at Napredak Hall in San Jose. On November 24th at the Fremont Coin Club, I was elected to their Board of Directors for 2010 and my fellow numismatist and friend Chuck Call was elected to the office of President.

December is always a busy month, attending different club Christmas events starting with a Joint Christmas Party on the 5th, an event put on by the Fairfield Coin Club and the Vallejo Numismatic Society on Saturday at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery (there was no alcohol served). As President of the Vallejo Numismatic Society and Robert W. Belleau as President of the Fairfield Coin Club, we served as Co-Master of Ceremonies. And where the winners of the NCNA 'Miller Medal' were presented by yours truly to two deserving individuals, Mr. Sydney Kass of the Stockton Delta Coin Club and Mr. James H. Laird of the Concord Coin Club, it was an honor and privilege to present these awards to two individuals whom I consider friends. Then a Christmas Party at the Fremont Coin Club on the 8th, then at the Redwood Empire Coin Club on the 9th in Santa Rosa and lastly to a Christmas Pot Luck Party at the Kramer's home for the Livermore Valley Coin Club on the 15th.

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MINTMASTER'S QUILL: An Editor's Prerogative

My Friends,

Well, we are now into the last year of the first decade of the Twenty-First (21st) Century, and it seems like only yesterday, even last night, that it was all that 'YK2 Problems'. I even remember the President of the long-gone Napa Valley Coin Club warning members to have battery-less portable radios and stock-pile water and ammunition.

But as we pause with this New Year and with our own Association's Golden Jubilee impending in 2011---- *which also would be the Thirtieth (30th) Anniversary for NCNA HEADS AND TALES*----the cliché that '*nothing changes or change is the only constant*' seems to have validity. Yet, in looking back ten years or looking back even further, while change had happened----*the original early issues of NCNA HEADS AND TALES were typed on an upright Underwood Manual Typewriter, with White-Out!*----there remains, there continues, there seems to endure, a whole litany of constants.

First, for us, here in northern California, there are *the local coin clubs*. Save a few small and weak coin clubs and one or two attempts at starting new local coin clubs, all the local coin clubs that were here in 1981 are still here in 2010. This needs to be interpreted as a positive and as testimony that local coin clubs can survive the turmoil and tribulations of changes and consternations of our contemporary and now fast-paced world. This confirms that local coin clubs, while so much has switched to the Internet and iPods and Blackberries still remain imperative, for while some generations have touch screens, click links, and pushed mice, many still want and wish that time with kindred alive and present hobbyists.

In fact, one of the objectives and hopes of NCNA HEADS AND TALES remains that small but sure effort to ignite and to excite local coin clubs, since, as still has for decades, the primary initial contacts for new and potential participants into our 'world of money' continues at the local coin club.

Second, while local coin clubs survive, and with many prosper, one factor continues and it is not so much a positive as a blessing and salvation: *the devotion and dedication given by so few to and for so many*. An interesting study would be to roster and matrix the participants in leadership positions in our hobby over the past three decades to ascertain who was toiling *then* compared to *recently* or *now*. When I review old NCNA HEADS AND TALES and then called CALCOIN NEWS, the litany of names does change, for age and the Great Judge has retired many; but, there some who, after not just years but decades, are still serving, dutifully devoted, and intensely immersed.

Over the decades, I and others have editorialized and commented about issues related to this and the need to have 'new blood and new ideas'; but, with the perspective of decades in my thoughts, the fact has emerged that thanks for the efforts over the years, or even the decades, *by a few* some local coin clubs would have ceased long ago.

Third, the primary motivation for our hobby has been and hopefully remains not investment or profit but *the joy and contentment of being with kindred hobbyists and sharing a hobby that has span centuries and is truly 'history in your hands'*. Why I joined my local coin clubs in 1970s remains no different why I would join another local coin club today. For me, it is being part of the hobby, and it is the camaraderie, fellowship, and the happiness.

We can only dimly hope for the tomorrows, and we are certain to witness far faster and constant changes. This is fact. But, the three prior reflections remain also fact. No one enters our 'world of money' because there were *no* local coin clubs, *no* welcome and work toiled by a few, and *no* enjoyment to be shared. Contrary, the three reflections are what have sustained our hobby, this 'world of money' through the turmoil of recent years.

In 1980, there were no commemorative coinages and only annual issued Proof and Mint Sets. Now, we have a regular series of Modern Commemorative, and this is not to claim that has been a positive. And, in 1980, we had local coin clubs and coin hobbyists, with some clubs long gone, as Jim Majoros in New Jersey has ably noted, and many great coin hobbyists gone; yet, it remains that this is a hobby of people, remembering my old cliché that '*people collect coins; coins do not collect people*'.

GOLD MINER DIGGINGS: NCNA News and Happenings

Nor-Cal VIII Coin Show

Our September 2009 Nor-Cal VIII was a success, and quite profitable for your Association. Attendance, while not 'barn-burning crowds' was steady both Saturday and Sunday, evaluations received were positive, the Youth Table, staffed by American Numismatic Association (ANA) Governor **Walter A. Ostromecki, Jr.** was well received, and **Lee H. Gong** provided his impressive error coin display, answering questions to coin show attendees, while the Vallejo Numismatic Society did the host coin club duties, staffing for the Registration Table, set-up, clean-up, and floor patrol. The attendance, while solid, could have been larger; but, on the whole the 2009 Nor-Cal must be 'chalked-up' as a success.

A full, comprehensive financial report has been tabulated, and as has been policy and practice going back into the 1970s, information and copies may be requested but nothing as to actual financial facts and figures would be published in NCNA HEADS AND TALES or elsewhere. If an NCNA Individual Member is interested, please contact the Treasurer.

2010 Nor-Cal Show

President Harry W. Davis regrets that there are no available dates in September 2010 or August or October open and can be coordinated with the Vallejo Elks Lodge #559, the site of the 2009 Nor-Cal Show. At this point in time, there is neither date nor venue for a Nor-Cal IX Coin Show.

The Vallejo Elks Lodge proved ideal, with its easy access, convenient access to I-80, and ample, more than ample, free parking; but, candidly, the Elks Lodge in Vallejo has placed its Lodge property on the real estate market. No date is known for escrow and the sale to be completed; but, that is a factor in our hoped return to the Elks Lodge.

Sidebar: For the Vallejo Numismatic Society's Sunday, May 2, 2010 Coin Show the impending sale is not a factor, as a sale and escrow would not be completed.

President Harry W. Davis and the Board will be meeting in February to review options and discuss possible dates and venues. It is hoped that something in the Vallejo, California environs might be located and contracted. Anything specific, once accepted and scheduled, would be announced in the numismatic press and in the May 2010 NCNA HEADS AND TALES.

Second Vice-President

President Harry W. Davis has yet to fill this position, and the office remains *sede vacate*.

Next Board of Directors Meeting

Adhering to a practice going back several years, the Board of Directors is anticipated to gather during the Cupertino Coin Club's Thirty-Eighth (38th) Annual Coin Show on **Sunday, February 21, 2010, 770 Montague Expressway, in San Jose, California**. The time has not been determined; but, mid-morning, after the initial opening and first crowds is anticipated. All Club Delegates are welcomed, and the primary agenda item would be a possible Nor-Cal IX Coin Show in 2010. Specifics may be contacted with **President Harry W. Davis** at 707-980-8254 or 707-642-0126.

2009 Miller Medal

The Association's highest and most esteemed, *'The Miller Medal'*, was presented last December 6, 2009, during the Fairfield Coin Club and Vallejo Numismatic Society's Twenty-Third (23rd) Joint Christmas Party, in Fairfield, California. Before a crowd of ninety-eight, **Syd Kass**, of Stockton, California, and **James H. Laird**, of Alamo, California, were honored. **President Harry W. Davis** allowed **Treasurer Michael S. Turrini** and **Past President Michael M. Stanley** to do the specific honors. Both 2009 honorees have distinguished involvements and commitments to numismatics.

As **President Davis** noted in his *President's Message*, written nominations are welcomed with a deadline of June 30, 2010 for the 2010 cycle. A revised roster of all honorees to date has been prepared, and if not included or published with this NCNA HEADS AND TALES issue, then it will be in the May 2010 issue.

Website

Wow! While it is not much, the Northern California Numismatic Association (NCNA) has a Website: www.solanocoinclub.com. Thanks to the effort and encouragement of **Treasurer Michael S. Turrini**, and the assistance of **'Doctor' Lloyd G. Chan**, of Suisun City, California, a Website was 'up and running' on October 12, 2009. The Site is simple: just providing basic information and contacts.

This Site is a combined one with the Fairfield Coin Club, Solano Silver Round Club, and Vallejo Numismatic Society, which explains the name of 'solanocoinclub'. Among the future expansions and additions would include adding a link or listing of the *'Miller Medals'*, copies of the current NCNA HEADS AND TALES issues, and the latest information for Board of Director's Meetings. Another objective would be to list all NCNA Club Members and each respective contact and meeting information.

2010 Dues

With each January NCNA HEADS AND TALES, enclosure includes your Dues Notice. *Please Read:* If your mailing label reads **09** and you are not prepaid several years or are an awarded Life Member, you owe dues: \$5.00 for Individual Member and \$10.00 for Club Members. Prompt payment is requested, and mail remittance, and any changes in address, to *'PO Box 4104, Vallejo, California, 94590-0410'*.

Coin Show Schedule

Continuing as the most popular and most used service of and by our Association, the latest Coin Show Schedule is given as the past pages to this issue. The effectiveness of this service depends on the timely submission of information, complete and correct, to **Fred G. van den Haak** at fredvdh@gmail.com or to *'PO Box 60484, Palo Alto, California, 94306-0484'*. Complimentary copies for local coin clubs may be requested via the same contacts.

Reminder

Your Editor is no longer an Assistant Editor for THE CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIST, and information needs now to be mailed to different addresses. *Please Refer To Notice At End Of 'Branch Mint Reports'*.

BRANCH MINT REPORTS:

NCNA Coin Club Happenings

Hello! First, Notice: Would NCNA Club Members Continue To Mail Hard-Copy Newsletters/Bulletins. NCNA HEADS AND TALES has not reached the technological level of downloaded/electronic mailings/submissions. *Second, as a repository for numismatic history here in northern California, information about individuals, honors, exhibit winners, elections, anniversaries, and such are important. Just Provide The Specifics.* *Second, in the September 2009 NCNA HEADS AND TALES information about each NCNA Club Member's meeting details was published, and no errors or omissions have been responded. So, What Was Published, at that time, Remains Correct? Please Advice.*

Alameda Coin Club

Ended 2009 with a great attendance and participation at its December 1, 2009 Annual Christmas Dinner, at Acapulco Restaurant: "**Larry Bovo, Mike Neicoff, and Bob Sturn** each gave a brief presentation on the beginnings of the Alameda Coin Club. **Larry** talked about the beginnings of the coin show including meetings for the youngsters. **Bob** talked about the different jobs, for the coin club that he had and how he got started in the club. **Bo** talked about older and former members. The first coin show was held at the Emeryville, California Holiday Inn, and later relocated the Oakland Airport Holiday Inn." **Mike Neicoff**, who now resides in Roseville, California and is active with the Sacramento Valley Coin Club, joined the Club's festivities, his first visit in many years. He went on to win the top prize in the drawing (raffle), a Mexican Two and Half Peso. Long time booster and worker, **Donald R. Barsi** has had extended hospital stay with recuperation from a major operation.

California Exonumist Society

Will hold its northern California semiannual meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2010, during the San Jose Coin Club's Show at Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, in San Jose, California, a new site for this event, which is also doubles as the One Twenty-Sixth (126th) California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) Convention. The highlight of this gathering will be the Society's Fourth Fund-Raising Auction that includes some better exonumia and Californian medals. If time allows, **Michael S. Turrini** intends to present a show program titled '*Launch A Submarine--Mint A Medallion*', an informative story about the 1965 medals struck and sold for the launching of the nuclear-powered Polaris USS Marino G. Vallejo submarine. Information about this upcoming meeting and requests for a complimentary MEDALLION, the quarterly newsletter, may be written to '*PO Box 4104, Vallejo, California, 94590-0410*'.

Cupertino Coin Club

The Club has issued its tee-shirts, which were reported "to make good Christmas gifts." The CCC ended 2009 at its Annual Holiday Party, with Santa Claus, last December 11, 2009, having Togo' sandwiches as the treats. The Club earned an easy \$538.00 from drawing sales at a recent Santa Clara Expo last November 2009. Information about the Club can be reached at www.CupertinoCoinClub.com. Editor of its electronic monthly COIN PRESS is also its 'King', and 'King' **Lyle Okamoto** rules quite benevolently.

Delta Coin Club

The DCC will begin its 2010 year with its Annual Dinner on Friday, January 15, 2010, returning to U.J.'s, once a regular site for its Annual Dinners, and **Michael S. Turrini** will again serve as its Emcee. Earlier, the Club ended 2009 with a special pot-luck dinner on December 18, 2009, with about fifty-three (53) attending and eating friend chicken and barbeque ribs. The Club had one change in Executive Officer: **Cliff Rice** was elected its new President. Going further back, the Club's Annual Benefit Auction last September 18, 2009 earned the Treasury \$577.25 from seventy-five (75) donated lots: "**Tony Rantz** and **Cliff Rice** were auctioneers with **Mike Merilles**, the 'lone runner', and **Debbie-Sue** and **Loris Enzminger** as the recorders and cashiers . . . Special thanks goes to **Tony Rantz** for putting the auction together and compiling the items and setting the approximate value on each . . ."

Diablo Numismatic Society

Ended 2009 with its Christmas Dinner at Pleasant Hill, California's Zio Fredo's. The Society's 2010 Executive Officers were installed: **James H. Laird**,

President, John P. Russell, Jr., Vice-President, Bardford E. Lee, Secretary, and William J. Green, Treasurer. Gordon R. Donnell attended and enjoyed the evening. Earlier, **John** presented at the Society's November 19, 2009 meeting his famous '*Coin Grading Clinic*', "twenty (20) coins were passed to the members for their participation in grading. No one graded these all correctly; with one factor was the inability to spot cleaned coins." The Society will commemorate its Golden Jubilee Anniversary on March 20, 2010 at the Concord Hilton, in downtown Concord, California.

Fairfield Coin Club The Club held its last 2009 meeting on November 25th, with **William F. Bartz** taking on Paper Money and the Drawing (raffle) top prize being a Carson City black-box CC Dollar. The FFF shares a Website, and it is www.solanocoinclub.com.

Fresno Numismatic Society Last November 11, 2009, the FNS elected a new President: "Most, well nearly all, of the Officers volunteered to remain in their capacity and were retained unopposed. However, the office of the President was contested as a nomination from the floor for **Ken Richert** was made for President. After the membership voted, **Ken Richert** was elected . . ." He replaced **Robert Fitzpatrick** who "leaves the FNS in one of the soundest condition it has been in years." The FNS ended 2009 last December 8th with its Annual Holiday Party and the traditional 'Toy For Tots', which the Society has supported for decades. The Party was held at the home of Bert Frazier, who also supplied the food.

Fremont Coin Club Elected new Officers, and they are '**Chuck** Call, *President*, **Bruce Caires**, *First Vice-President*, **Dennis Pagano**, *Second Vice-President*, **Briita Ehlers**, *Treasurer*, and **Dorothy Galovich-Call**, *Recording Secretary*. **Matt Hutchison** has been the Club's DOUBLE EAGLE Editor for the past few years, publishing a fine monthly newsletter, and as he shared in the December 2009 DOUBLE EAGLE: "Going forward, let us remember the past fondly, encourage each other to plod ahead in the coming year boldly, and show anyone who passes through what make our Club so special. It is the same thing today than it was when I first darkened the doorway nearly six years ago: people. Some come all too infrequently, demographics flex with the seasons, but the social core is what really makes the difference. Ending his editorial commentary, he added, "Be Santa Claus to someone who desperately needs it, and give from the joy of your heart. Serving others positively in any capacity benefits us all."

Gateway Coin Club The GCC ended the year last December 3, 2009 with a White Elephant Auction, and on November 18, 2009, the Club had an appreciation dinner for all who assisted with the coin show at Merced, California's New China Café.

Liberty Numismatic Society Heard former LNS President **Chuck White** speak at its November 18, 2009 meeting: "he described his garage-based setup for profiting from the copper value of pre 1982 United States Cents. As part of his talk, **Chuck** demonstrated one of his Ryedale coin sorter machines, which can rapidly separate older copper Cents from the current copper-coated zinc Cents. He reported that he has funded his equipment purchases and made a nice profit besides through the sale of copper Cents pulled from circulation in this manner." The Society's October 21, 2009 meeting was its Annual Book Auction, which earned an ease \$326.10. The Auctioneer was **Stephen M. Huston**, with **Jim Rosen** and **Gene Hoy** for handling the donations. Both **Jim** and **Chris Thompson** served as runners, and **Sharon Rosen** did the recording duties. Donors were **Peter Hamilton**, **Joe Wargo**, **Ron Johnson**, **Chris Thompson**, **Bill Hurja**, **Gene Hoy**, **Vince Lacariere**, **Alvin H.W. Lo**, **Dr. Regan Shea**, and **David W. Lange**, "who shipped multiple boxes of high quality items all the way from his Florida home."

Livermore Valley Coin Club Had '*Other Hobbies*' last September 15, 2009 with the most interesting, 'Rock Climbing', which generated "a lot of questions from those of use who only climb up a stair or two." The main attraction at LVCC meetings is the ever-growing auction: "last month the program came at the end of the meeting. It was a large auction. This month is an inventive. It will be a

large auction." NCNA President **Harry W. Davis** claimed in 'The Coin of the Month' eighteen (18) silver Mercury Dimes at the September 18, 2009 meeting.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society November 25, 2009 was PCNS' Annual 'Turkey Coins' Special Show 'n Tell: **Dr. Michael E. Wehner** "exhibited two turkeys from San Francisco, California. One was an otherwise nice token from the tome & Jerry Saloon that is slabbed as 'NCS Genuine', duh. The other was a previously unknown token from the Gaiety Saloon on Pacific Street in the Barbary Coast area that unfortunately is nearly completely cracked through the planchet." The October 28, 2009 PCNS meeting heard an exemplary talk by **Stephen M. Huston** with '*Coins That Changed History*' "starting with the first simple Lydian coinage, which transformed the ancient economy from clumsy barter to more efficient trading through precious metals, we learned about these important historical sources, coins." For example, he noted that "Florentine gold florin and Venetian gold ducat coins were widely circulated for long periods of time and considered standards. As a result, these were also widely imitated."

Peninsula Coin Club The November 15, 2009 PCC Coin Show was a success: "was well attended despite the economy, and many dealers reported good sales." Recognition was noted to those who helped the entire day: **Joe Jurado, Howard Wheeler, Rich Douglas, and Fred G. van den Haak**. Special thanks was expressed to **Michael S. Turrini** and **Gordon R. Donnell** who staffed a combination youth and information table, and to Fred who 'fed everyone' at the traditional early morning breakfast.

Redwood Empire Coin Club November 18, 2009 meeting was the Club's Helen and Roy Roberts Benefit Auction, which earned the Club \$520.25. Earlier, **Curtis Smith** "started out the Junior Meeting at the October 14th meeting on the history of the Kennedy Half Dollar and Error Coins. And while he did that, he showed off his prestidigitation skills. After showing the kids a normal Kennedy Half Dollar, it suddenly became a two-tailed coin! Then, he pulled a Morgan Dollar out of the air! All his talk related to the Kennedy Half and Error Coins . . . bet the adults enjoyed it as much as the kids!" At the same meeting, Lee H. Gong followed with his PowerPoint program on 'Errors 101', and Lee is an expert on errors having collecting those since 1967!

Reno Coin Club The December 2009 RENO CARTWHEEL reported that gold bars are now being counterfeited, phony ones filled with tungsten, discovered in Hong Kong, which has created rumors of salted four hundred (400) ounce bars, or as the newsletter noted 'all that glitters is not gold'.

Sacramento Valley Coin Club Has adopted a new electronic mailed SVCC NEWSLETTER as a means to address the rising costs, the singular largest expenditure outside of its two coin shows. The SVCC began its 2010 year with the Annual Installation Banquet on January 13, 2010 at Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom, California. For additional information, contact www.sacvalcc.org.

San Francisco Coin Club Experimented with its November and December meetings and annual year-ending social to which only three members attended: **Jack G. Trad, Kenneth K. Takahashi, and Michael S. Turrini**. *Well, So Much For The Experiment!*

San Jose Coin Club Heard Past President and Hall of Famer **Larry Benson** speak on '*The Color of Money*' at its November 11, 2009 meeting: "he truly captured the interest of his audience and fielded many questions. Larry also provided samples of his subject and hand-outs for added information." At the previous October 14, 2009 meeting, **Tony Yu** sponsored a full Italian dinner who "wanted the membership to help him celebrate his birthday and twenty years in the coin business. Several pastas and lasagna were served with a green salad and bread. Member, **Allison Paker**, also provided a homemade cake." President **Ryan Johnson** continues to promote and to coordinate the Club's annual food drive for San Jose, California's Second Harvest, which in 2008 collected over one hundred pounds of food.

Solano Silver Round Club

Continues to promote silver rounds, and the recent Show 'n Tells at November 12, 2009 had **Michael S. Turrini** with a special limited edition silver round honoring the USCGC Tanny, the only vessel still afloat that survived the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, and **William F. Bartz** shared two Super Bowl medals, one of which was a replica of the actual coin toss for the 1996 Super Bowl. The SSRC shares a Website, and it is www.solanocoinclub.com.

Stanislaus County Coin Club

For the December 2009 President's Column, SCCC President **Aaron Brown** authored a great tale, too long maybe for NCNA HEADS AND TALES with 'Santa Gaudens' as Santa Claus' brother, who complained about 'Ikes' landing on his head and called his reindeer named 'Gobrecht', 'Brenner', 'Fraser', and 'Weinman', but were actually buffalo. The Junior Auction at the Club's October 14, 2009 meeting was a success: "What recession? Our Juniors were spending up a storm at our Junior Auction! With more than double the participants from last year and not a single lot returned . . . special thanks to **Dolly Sauls** and **Marcia Soria** for organizing the event and to **Mike Tandy** and **Mark Garcia** for serving as the auctioneers." As Aaron Brown stated in pride, "Heritage wishes it had results like this!"

Vallejo Numismatic Society

Held its Annual Hopperstad Auction this past December 2, 2009 which earned a preliminary \$815.00 from one hundred eighty-seven (187) donated white elephant lots. The auctioneer was **Michael S. Turrini**, and it took over two hours to complete. The size of this Auction required three recorders, **Dr. Rodney W. Baker**, **Irene Carrillo**, and **John P. Russell, Jr.** and two runners, **Michael Butler** and **Kevin M. Quenga, Sr.** The VNS and FCC jointly celebrated their Annual Joint Christmas Party last December 5, 2009, again at Anheuser-Busch Brewery, with an attendance of 98. The Drawing (raffle) claimed a record \$1860.00, and everyone earned a Door Prize! There were even three (3) Goodie Bags this year's Party! Among the honors presented were two 'President's Medals' by California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) President **Michael S. Turrini** to **John P. Russell, Jr.**, of Concord, California, and **Daniel O. Shattuc**, of Sunnyvale, California. The VNS has a joint Website; check for more information at www.solanocoinclub.org.

Special Appeal and Note

This issue of NCNA HEADS AND TALES was not able to provide the traditional good coverage and recognition to several local coin clubs, due to several factors. One was among the most basic: the lack of good reporting and coverage plus even providing the specifics of full names and actual dates of the event or meeting. "our next Wednesday" meeting is not a date, and "Gary A [or just Gary] talked about his 1895 Morgan" is incomplete. For the Editor does not know which Wednesday, and may not know who 'Gary' is. Completeness would assist in summarizing here in the *Branch Mint Reports*. Another example is when telephone numbers are given, particularly for coin show contacts, the Area Code is lacking, and continuing, meeting addresses are often not complete.

A long-time local newsletter/bulletin editor reminded *this* Editor that the local coin club's meeting site and information, mailing address, Website, and e-mail address and/or contact telephone should be **repeated prominently in each and every issue**.

Furthermore, please make sure that NCNA HEADS AND TALES at 'PO Box 4104, Vallejo, California, 94590-0410' and that Jeff Shevlin for the CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIST at '7737 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #250, Carmichael, California, 95608-1787' receive regularly local coin club newsletters/bulletins.

While a newsletter/bulletin remains primarily an 'in-house' organ, it is also a vehicle to promote and to publicize the local coin club to its neighbors and to the greater coin community.

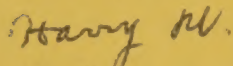
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Nominations for the 2010 Ron Miller award 'Miller Medal' can be submitted starting January 1st and close July 1st. Please submit in writing and send to my address at 2900 Georgia St., Vallejo, Ca. 94591-6602.

Just a reminder that NCNA prints a coin show list, a free service to the numismatic community, listing is updated quarterly. If your club has an upcoming show send information early to: NCNA, Fred G van den Haak, P. O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 49306-0484 or e mail to fredvdh@gmail.com

As you can see, I wear several hats and you too can get involved with your coin club and other clubs as well. You just can't beat the good times, with the friendship of fellow numismatists, along with expanding your knowledge of the hobby. Hopefully I will see you and get acquainted at all the other upcoming club shows or functions. As I always say, support your local clubs, don't just let the other guy do it all, for you too can enjoy the fruits of your labors! Until we meet again, I remain

Yours sincerely,



Harry W. Davis, President

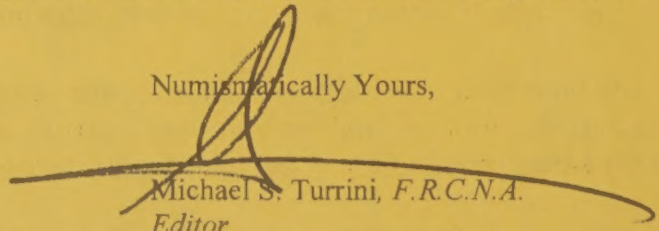
From Page 3

My three reflections, rambling as these might be, are to remain the enduring qualities of our hobby, *'this hobby of kings and king of hobbies'*.

So, where does this rambling bring me and you? Ending, let me give you this quotation to ponder: *"I am not afraid of tomorrow, for I have seen yesterday and I love today."*----William Allen White.

Remember: Have Fun With Your Hobby! Always Serve Others! Enjoy Your Collecting! And, Create Hope!

Numismatically Yours,



Michael S. Turrini, F.R.C.N.A.
Editor

COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

These coin Club show listings are provided as a free service to the numismatic community by the Northern California Numismatic Association. Show listings are updated quarterly and are available without cost to member Coin Clubs. If you would like to have a show listed, please send all pertinent show information early to: N.C.N.A., Fred G. van den Haak, P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 49306-0484. You may also e mail the information to: fredvdh@gmail.com

- Jan. 22-24, 2010 SAN JOSE. San Jose 42nd Coin, Stamp and Collectors Show, Double Tree Hotel, Bayshore Ballroom, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose. Bourse: Ray Johnson, P. O. Box 10416 San Jose, CA. 95157-1416, Phone: 408-973-1606 sanjosecoins@aol.com. Admission \$3.
- Feb. 21, 2010 SAN JOSE. "Cupertino" Coin Club 38th Annual Coin Show, Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose. Bourse: Bruce Braga (408) 839-1883 or Cupertino Coin Club, P.O. Box 448, Cupertino, CA 95015-0448. Free Parking. Admission: \$2 adults, youth 17 and under free.
- Mar. 12-4, 2010 SACRAMENTO. "2010" Wests Token Jamboree, Western Token Society, Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento. Bourse/Information: Michael Wehner, P.O. Box 194271, San Francisco, Ca., 94119-4271 Phone: (415) 928-4469; e mail: mf_wehner@yahoo.com website: <http://www.exonumia.homestead.com>
- Mar. 14, 2010 LIVERMORE. Livermore Valley Coin Club 47th Annual Coin Show, Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore. Bourse: Steve Kramer, P.O. Box 610, Livermore, Ca. 94551. Phone (925) 422-3794.
- April 30-May1 2010 SACRAMENTO. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Annual Spring Coin Show, The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Bourse: David Herr, 2428 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn, Ca. 95603. Phone: 530-885-9050 . Admission \$2, 17 and under free!
- May 2, 2010 VALLEJO. Vallejo Numismatic Society 38th Annual Show, Vallejo Elk's Lodge, 2850 Redwood Parkway, off Admiral Callaghan, Vallejo. Bourse: E.T. Hpffmark, Jr., 243 Cortland Circle, Vallejo, Ca 94589-1708 Phone: 707-642-8754. E Mail: EMPERORI@juno.com or Turrini@money.org. Check: www.solanocoinclub.com

- July 10-11, 2010 MODESTO. Stanislaus County Coin Club, Modesto Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Expo, Modesto Centre Plaza, 10th and K Streets, Modesto. Bourse: Mike Tandy, P.O. Box 1672, Modesto, Ca. 95353. Phone: (209) 239-1770.
- Aug. 15, 2010 FAIRFIELD. Fairfield Coin Club 21st Annual Coin Show, Willow Room, Fairfield Community Center (downtown), 1000 East Kentucky off Pennsylvania. Bourse Coordinator: Robert Belleau (707) 644-6232, P.O.Box 944, Fairfield, CA 94533-0094
- Aug. 21-2, 2010 FREMONT. Fremont Coin Club 38th Annual Show, Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont, Ca. Information: (510) 792-1511; Bourse: Vince LaCariere, P.O. Box 1401, Fremont, Ca. 94538.
- Oct. 1-2, 2010 SACRAMENTO. Sacramento Valley Coin Club Annual Fall Coin Show, The Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Bourse: David Herr, P.O. Box 232, Auburn, Ca. 95604. Ph. 530-885-9050 or E Mail: gece@jps.net Admission \$2, under 18 free
- Oct. 9-10, 2010 CONCORD. Diablo Numismatic Society 14th Annual Contra Costa Coin Show, Holiday Inn, 1050 Burnett Avenue at Diamond Boulevard, just off Freeway 680 in Concord. Bourse: Bill Green (925) 351-7605. e mail: greenwj@aol.com (Admission \$3)
- Oct. 23, 2010 VALLEJO. CSNA Northern California Numismatic Assoc. 'Coin Collectors' Retreat', Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin at Capital, in downtown Vallejo. Registration begins at 9AM with the programs starting at 10AM. Admission: Free. Inquiries: P.O. Box 4281 Vallejo, Ca 94590-0428. E Mail: EMPERORI@juno.com or Turrini@money.org. Check: www.solanocoinclub.com
- Nov. 14, 2010 SAN JOSE. Peninsula Coin Club 31st Annual Coins and Collectibles Show, Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose. Bourse: Fred van den Haak, P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306. Phone: (650) 498-4158 E Mail: fredvdh@gmail.com
- Mar. 11-3, 2011 SACRAMENTO. "2011" Wests Token Jamboree, Western Token Society, Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento. Bourse/Information: Michael Wehner, P.O. Box 194271, San Francisco, Ca., 94119-4271 Phone: (415) 928-4469; e mail: mf_wehner@yahoo.com

GORDON RUSSELL DONNELL

September 29, 1935----January 8, 2010

Native of his beloved St. Louis, wanderer and a man always on the move, for he lived in most every major city in the United States and in even Canada, bus driver and mechanic, projectionist and theater manager, custodian and maintenance man, beach lover, wood carver, limo driver and major domino for a millionaire property owner, baseball fan, and multi-facet hobbyist.

Gordon was all these, and he was truly in the past two decades an intense numismatist. The volume and diversity of this collections: the albums, boxes, and cans overflowing with woods, the files and records, all neatly hand-lettered on recycled old library index cards, and the number of books in his library were evidence, more than enough, that he loved numismatics and that he lived numismatics. He collected elongates, woods by the bags and boxes, So-Called Dollars, Proof and Mint Sets, souvenir cards, FUN pins, Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE), and exonomia, plus books, and more.

He loved numismatics. Among his library, which numbered into the hundreds of volumes, he had topics and titles on all aspects of 'the world of money'. In fact, rummaging through his accumulations, two pristine and popular Kappen's CALIFORNIA TOKENS and a book on banking in Georgia were discovered. When asked about a 'book on banking in Georgia?' he replied that he had heard the author at an American Numismatic Association (ANA) convention and decided to add the book to his library.

He loved numismatics. His shelves and his walls attested to his intensity and his devotion. In fact, there was no clear space, on shelves, walls, or floor in his studio apartment for anything but numismatics. He had a steamer chest in the bathroom filled plus with stuff stacked on it!

He lived numismatics. His devotion was legendary. His backpack had the schedules for every transit system in the San Francisco Bay Area. His backpack had applications and fliers for every local coin club and even national organizations as well as coin shows. His backpack had his Show 'n Tells ready. When called to clean out his hospice room at the Veterans' Hospital in Martinez, California, his final home from wanderings, founded at the bottom of that backpack was a large silver round, which had been or would have been his next Show 'n Tell.

He lived numismatics. His devotion was concrete, consistent, and complete. On the tray stand next to his hospice bed laid his last opened mail: the newsletter announcing the annual dinner for the Santa Cruz Coin Club. He might not have made that Club's events regularly; but, he would call and arrange to sell its show tickets, coordinating with someone at the monthly San Jose Coin Club meetings. His last out-going telephone call was to request that he be assigned to the Registration Desk for Saturday, January 23, 2010 during the San Jose (California) Coin Club's Show.

While he loved and lived numismatics, he also served it well for over two decades. To cite, here are the groups that he served as President: Alameda Coin Club, Liberty Numismatic Society, Pacific Coast Numismatic Society, his first coin club, San Francisco Coin Club, Northern California Numismatic Association (NCNA), and the International Association of Wooden Money Collectors (IOWMC). This only names the presidencies, and separate lists could be compiled for vice-presidencies, director and board positions, and committee appointments.

While he loved and lived numismatics, he also toiled diligently for over two decades. He would awake early, take two or three separate transit systems, and travel sixty or more miles, each day, to assist

with set-up chores, registration desk coverage, meeting attendance, and then clean-up duties. Some shows, he would dutifully wait for rides as early as 4:00 AM and accept returning about Midnight.

His devotion, service, and toil were not forgotten. His small apartment at 32 Linda, in Oakland, California, was equally filled with trophies, plaques, and awards. He was a Krause Publication's 'Numismatic Ambassador', recipient of the Northern California Numismatic Association's (NCNA) esteemed 'Miller Medal', honoree of the American Numismatic Association's (ANA) 'Glenn Smedley Memorial Award' and the coveted 'Medal of Merit', and many more.

Gordon, with tattoos, a life-long smoker, and unpretentious dresser, was a diamond in the rough. He might have lacked the sparkle and facets of brilliance. He might have been quiet in demeanor and easily overlooked in the crowd. He might have habits and traits that some may not accept or comprehend. But, for over two decades, he devoted, served, and toiled for 'our world on money', here in northern California and across the whole nation.

In his final weeks, he would pause and reflect on this times and life. He left with no regrets, and he maintained, as best as he could, an active interest in our hobby. For example, the evening before his passing, he had arranged another famous 'lift' to the monthly Vallejo Numismatic Society's meeting and had his Show 'n Tell ready. One of his last dedications was to ask for hobby information to distribute and to disseminate about his hospice.

During his final time, he would think and conclude different evaluations about himself, his times, and his life. He would come to understand that all of us, including him, have a purpose. He would reflect that his purpose had been, in his last two decades of his wandering living, this 'world of money'.

In closing, many who came to know him were touched by this wandering diamond-in-the-rough.

Ending, in the movie, THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939), one of the concluding scenes speaks the real measure of any man or woman. The Wizard, that Kansas snake oil salesman, judged it best when he told the Tin Man: *"Remember, my sentimental friend, that a heart is not judged by how much you loved, but by how much you are loved by others."*

Finally, that judgment is a fitting testimony for the Gordon. For while we are now comforted that he devoted, served, and toiled for the 'world of money', when that last urge came to hit his final wandering road to wherever the Sun may set, he had learned, smiling as he looking back, that he had been loved by many.

*"Remember, Gordon, No Man Is A Failure Who Has Friends"----*paraphrased from 'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE'

By *Michael S. Turrini*
January 11, 2010